

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

**[0078]** A composition and process for removing calculus deposits from the teeth and suppressing pain and irritation of tissue includes an anti-irritant in an effective amount to suppress pain and irritation temporarily when applied topically to the teeth and gums. The anti-irritant is a natural or non-nutritive sweetener. The composition can be a solid or aqueous solution containing an edible acid such as citric acid and ascorbic acid from fresh lemon juice to form a solution having a pH of about 2.0 to 5.0 and an anti-irritant, such as sodium saccharine. The composition also can be used to apply a pharmaceutical agent to the skin, mucosa or eye without irritation. The acidic composition is effective in removing or loosening calculus deposits from the teeth without burning or irritation of the gums.